

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached drawing replacement sheet includes changes to Figures 2, 3, and 4. This sheet replaces the original sheet including Figures 2, 3, and 4.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet (1)

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 20, 21, 23-27, 29, 31, 32, and 35-39 are pending in the present application, Claims 20, 21, 23-27, 29, 31, 32, and 35-38 having been amended, Claim 39 having been added, Claims 21, 24-26, 32, and 38 having been withdrawn, and Claims 22, 28, 30, 33, and 34 having been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Support for the present amendment is believed to be self-evident from the originally filed specification. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, the drawings were objected under 37 CFR §§ 1.84(p)(5) and 1.75(d); the specification was objected to; the specification was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to provide an adequate written description and as failing to adequately teach how to make and/or use the invention; Claims 20, 23, 27, 29, 3, 35, 36, and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention; and Claims 20, 23, 27, 29, 31, 35, 36, and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Seo et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,430,267, hereinafter Seo) in view of Petrov et al. ("Pick-2 reactor with low consumption of high-enrichment Uranium," Atomic Energy, V. 95, No. 4, 674, 2003, hereinafter Petrov), and further in view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA).

With respect to the objection to the drawings under 37 CFR §1.84(p)(5), the specification is amended to include reference number 6 (see page 16 of the substitute specification filed herewith). With respect to the objection to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.75(d), this objection is unclear since page 4 of the Office Action fails to specify why the drawings do not clearly disclose what Applicants' invention is. In figure 1, the details of

exemplary assembly 1, i.e., wires 6, are represented. In original figures 2, 3, and 4, the wires, even if they are still present in the assembly 1, were not represented in order to obtain a clearer representation and to simplify the drawings. In original figures 2, 3, and 4, only a filled circle is shown as an approximation of the cross section of the assembly 1. The filled circle allows one to see clearly the presence of the clearance 3 use to insert the assembly into the casing. In an attempt to address the Examiner's concerns with respect to the drawings, replacement figures 2, 3, and 4 are submitted herewith to show the wires disposed in assembly 1. Thus, the figures show the subject matter regarded as the invention.

With respect to the objection to the specification, the specification is amended to refer to reference number 6 as noted above. Thus, the objection to the specification is overcome.

With respect to the rejection to the specification under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, the present specification and claims are amended to remove "elementary." A substitute specification (with clean and marked-up copies) is submitted herewith. It is respectfully submitted that the substitute specification does not add new matter.

With respect to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, the claims are amended to remove "elementary" and "most." Thus, this ground of rejection is overcome.

With respect to the rejection of the claims based on art, all grounds of rejection are hereby traversed because Seo is not prior art.

The present Application is a national stage entry of PCT/FR04/50148, which has an international filing date of April 7, 2004. The filing date of the present application is the international filing date of April 7, 2004.¹

¹ See 35 U.S.C. § 363, which states "An international application designating the United States shall have the effect, from its international filing date under Article 11 of the treaty, of a national application for patent regularly filed in the Patent and Trademark Office." See also MPEP §§ 1893.03 and 1893.03(b).

Seo issued on September 30, 2009 and was earlier published on August 31, 2006. Since both of these dates are after the filing date of the present application (April 7, 2004), Seo is not prior art under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(a) or (b).

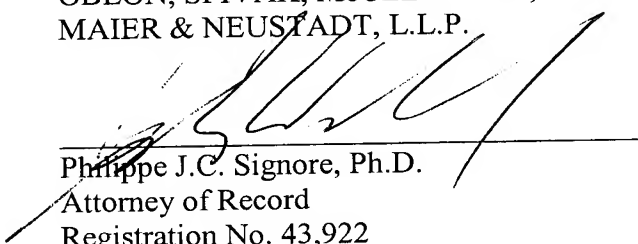
Furthermore, Seo has a 102(e) date (i.e., U.S. filing date) of March 28, 2005. This date is after Applicants' filing date of April 7, 2004. Thus, Seo is not prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

Thus, Seo cannot be applied against the present application as prior art, and all the outstanding grounds of rejection must be withdrawn.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for formal allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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